

ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor our dear friend Mike Garcia who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to working families in California.

Mike served as the President of Service Employees International Union United Service Workers West (SEIU USSW) between 1988 and 2014, where he led 40,000 janitors, security officers and airport workers across California in the fight for good jobs. Mike has been involved in the labor movement since 1980, when he began his career organizing janitors first in San Jose and later in San Diego in the "Justice for Janitors" campaign.

In 2010 he oversaw the merger of several local unions into SEIU USWW, a statewide union of property service workers. Mike guided SEIU USWW through years of dramatic growth, taking a union of 1,800 janitors and building a powerful statewide local on the forefront of fighting for immigrants' rights and lifting working families out of poverty.

Mike had a deep understanding of policy and the questions that matter most to working class Californians. He was also extremely brave; willing to face the strongest adversaries when fighting for those who needed his help. According to Mike, his greatest accomplishment was winning the historic janitors' strike of 2000 in Los Angeles, an action he proudly notes "changed the lives of thousands of janitors and their families because USWW members—the real heroes of the strike—laid it all on the line for a chance to win and bring their families into the American middle class."

In retirement Mike will remain a powerful voice for vulnerable populations and a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to help millions of aspiring citizens achieve better lives.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Mike Garcia for his service to our Country.

RECOGNIZING BUD ELLIOTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bud Elliott as he celebrates his retirement as a reporter and news anchor for KSEE24. For 23 years, Bud has been a part of thousands of viewers' lives, and we will all undoubtedly miss watching him on the evening news.

Bud's career in journalism began years before his time at KSEE24. Bud worked at KHOW radio in Denver, Colorado, where he was news director for most of the 1970s. He

also worked as a news anchor at CNN-2, which later became CNN Headline News. Before arriving in Fresno, Bud worked as the main news anchor at the ABC affiliate in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1987, Bud began his career at KSEE24. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to establish a solid reputation in the community for delivering accurate news. While at KSEE24, Bud has worked as the evening news anchor, morning newscast anchor, and morning show co-anchor. He has worked from both behind the desk and out in the field to deliver news that is relevant and important to residents in the Valley.

The commitment Bud has made to his career and the Central Valley has not gone unnoticed. Throughout his time in the San Joaquin Valley, Bud has earned a number of awards for excellence in journalism, including an Emmy and several Associated Press and Radio-Television News Directors Association awards. Most recently, Bud was recognized by the Fresno County Farm Bureau for his work on a four-part series focused on the water challenges that farmers face in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions Mr. Bud Elliott has made to the San Joaquin Valley. The lasting contributions he has made to our community as a news anchor deserve to be commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2014, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 369: "yes;" rollcall No. 370: "yes."

CONGRATULATING LEBANESE TAVERNA ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lebanese Taverna on their 35th Anniversary. Tanios and Marie Abi-Najm immigrated to the United States in 1976, along with their five young children: Dory, Dany, David, Gladys and Grace.

The family boarded a cargo ship, in the dead of the night, to escape the Civil War in Lebanon, bringing only what they could carry. Their final destination was Arlington, Virginia where other family members had already been living. After working in local restaurants for three years, the family saved enough to purchase a small restaurant in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, near their home. Being practical, they kept the original sign, "Athenian Taverna," changing just one word, thus "Lebanese Taverna" was born. Each family member had a role at the original location, whether it was greeting guests, serving

food, cooking in the kitchen or finishing homework at the tables.

Lebanese Taverna today, 35 years later, is a multi-concept collaboration with six restaurants, four quick service cafes, a market, and full service catering division. Tanios and Marie are easing into retirement (although still involved in quality control) while the five siblings, each with their own specialty, operate the business. Today the Abi-Najm children still greet old friends and welcome new ones into the restaurants where they grew up and shared their lives, in keeping with their motto, "good food enjoyed in good company." Lebanese Taverna has come to symbolize the realization of dreams and the rewards of dedication.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Abi-Najm on their 35 years of success. This family embodies the very best ideals of the American dream; hard work and a strong commitment to family and community. Congratulations on 35 years of success!

IN MEMORY OF PAT TORO

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my constituent, Pat Toro, decorated Vietnam veteran, longtime former president of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and retired law-enforcement officer. Pat passed away on Thursday, July 3, at the age of sixty-four, after a long battle with leukemia.

Pat served his country as a Marine during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the United States he continued to serve his community as a criminal investigator for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In addition to being the President of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat held the positions of Southern District Leader and National Director at Large.

During his tenure with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat was profoundly dedicated to improving the quality of life and preserving the history of his fellow veterans. He started a program to provide dignified burials for indigent veterans, which gave ninety people the proper respect they had earned. One of Pat's goals was to construct a memorial that would honor the more than 400 fallen Vietnam veterans from Queens. Although this project remains on hold, completing it would be a fitting honor to Pat's memory.

There is not a better example of unbridled patriotism and service than Pat Toro, who was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in memory of the courageous and benevolent American hero, Pat Toro, who provided an immeasurable service to some of the most deserving Americans.